



South Carolina Certified Public Manager®

2020 Askew Award Winner

The George C. Askew Award is given annually to an individual (or individuals) deemed to have completed an exemplary Certified Public Manager Capstone Project for the year.

It was created by the American Academy of Certified Public Managers® to recognize outstanding projects throughout the country and was named in honor of George C. Askew who, by virtue of being the first named called in the first CPM graduation ceremony in Georgia in 1976, became the first individual to be certified by a Certified Public Manager® program.

Each CPM Program, through its director, may nominate a capstone project to be given the award for its local program.

The South Carolina Certified Public Manager Program congratulates the 2020 recipient of the George C. Askew Award, Samuel Weldon, Managing Attorney, South Carolina Department of Social Services, Greenville County Office.

The criteria for selection include that the project should:

- Be innovative in its approach.
- Demonstrate an improvement in quality within the work unit as a result of the project.
- Show cost savings of the result of the implementation of the project.
- Be an outstanding demonstration of CPM principles.

Nathan Strong and Bill Tomes serve as project mentors for the program. They review every project in its entirety and provide feedback and guidance to the CPM candidates. There were many great projects that will positively impact agency processes and the citizens agencies serve. Selecting a winner each year is no small task. About this year's Askew Award winner, Nathan Strong had this to say:

"Sam's project really gets to the heart of process improvement. He picked an important problem, overdue Permanency Planning Hearings for children in foster care. He researched it carefully. He identified the likely causes of the deficiencies in the process and picked solutions that addressed the causes. Sam came up with a reasonable and measurable way to implement those solutions. His careful approach paid off and Sam identified the data that needed to be used to reduce or eliminate the overdue hearings. Equally important, his findings can inform 45 other counties on how to do the same thing. Sam's project is a wonderful service to foster children and the citizens of South Carolina."

Five graduates were selected to receive an honorable mention for their projects:

Jennifer R. Druce, South Carolina Department of Commerce
Matthew T. Dugan, LPCS, South Carolina Department of Mental Health
Eugenia Howard, South Carolina Department of Administration
Liz Rosinski, South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority
Dorothy S. Weaver, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce